

In re Patent Application of:

ENRIQUEZ

Serial No. **09/686,247**

Filed: **OCTOBER 11, 2000**

REMARKS

The courtesies extended by Examiner Phan during the discussions with Applicant's attorney on May 11 and May 14, 2004, are gratefully appreciated. As was pointed out during these discussions, Applicant has amended the rejected claims in a manner which is believed to clearly patentably distinguish the present invention from the cited prior art, so that all of the claims, in addition to Claims 3-7 and 10-20, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application, accordingly, in light of the above-mentioned discussions, the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

As was pointed out during the above-mentioned discussions and as is reflected in the claims, the present invention employs a single external passive circuit component that is shared among a plurality of respectively different circuit functions. The patent to Mills 5,818,505 employs a host central processing unit which is shared among plural functional devices. This use of a shared central processing unit is akin to the digital signal-processing block of the patent to Zhou cited in the previous Office Action of September 15, 2003.

The central processing unit of Mills is not an external passive circuit component, but is rather an active digital processing unit. Applicant's invention does not entail the use of a digital processing unit in the manner proposed in the Office Action.

In an effort to more succinctly recite the present invention, the term "analog" has been inserted in the claims between the terms "passive" and "circuit component". It is respectfully submitted that this clarifying recitation clearly

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removes the patent to Mills as an anticipatory reference. As a consequence, reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 8 and 9 as allegedly being anticipated by the patent to Mills, is respectfully requested.

Upon a withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 2 8 and 9, these claims as well as Claims 3-7 and 10-14, dependent thereon, will be in condition for allowance, as are Claims 15-20, a Notice of Allowability of which was indicated in the outstanding Office Action.

Favorable reconsideration of this application and a Notice of Allowability of Claims 1-20 are respectfully requested. However, if the Examiner is of the opinion that a minor amendment to the application would be appropriate by Examiner's Amendment, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-0484 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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